

UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
April 18-19, 2009
Minneapolis Airport Marriott, Bloomington, Minnesota

Present: Leland Rich President, in the Chair; Albert M. Anderson (Saturday only), Paul Badgero, Kent Beadle, John Benton (Saturday only), Jack Bernauer, Maureen Brunt (Saturday only), David Carlson, Walt Erbach, Cyndee Johnson, Nicole Joraandstad (Saturday only), Judy Maier, Bob Pelletier, James Pleasants, Mark Swandby, Karen Tait, Beau Welling, Georgia West, Sam Williams

Absent: Geoffrey Broadhurst, Janet Farr, Kathleen Harlow, Peggy Hatch, Jan Legacie, Richard Maskel, Deborah Moulton, Tom O'Connor, Chris Sjue, Tim Solie, Bill Todhunter

Also Present: Alan Ashley, USOC; Scott Higgins, Director of Coaching Development; Dawn Leurquin, Event Services Coordinator; Jean Lindner, Administrative Assistant; Warren Lowe, Director of Finance, World Curling Federation; Rick Patzke, COO; Sandy Robinson, Controller; Bev Schroeder, Member Services Director

Also Absent: Terry Kolesar, Communications Director; Ed Lukowich, Athlete Development Director; John Coumbe-Lilley, Assistant Athlete Development Director

1. **Call to Order.** Rich called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed everyone.
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - a. Rich invited everyone to stand and applaud in celebration of Chris Moore, who passed away in February 2009.
3. **Roll Call.** Secretary Carlson took the roll and confirmed that a quorum is present.
4. **Appoint Parliamentarian.** Rich appointed Lowe as parliamentarian.
5. **Additions/changes to printed agenda (Rich)**
 - a. Add to Item 7 – Ratify the Actions taken by the Executive Committee – item 7A- Executive Committee meeting of April 17, 2009. **Badgero moves/Carlson seconds motion to approve agenda as amended. Motion approved.**
6. **Approve minutes of previous Board meetings (Rich)**
 - a. September 13-14, 2008. **Motion to approve minutes Pelletier/West. Motion approved.**
 - b. January 26, 2009 [Special Board Meeting via conference call] **Motion to approve 1/26/09 minutes Maier/Brunt. Motion approved.**
7. **Ratify the actions taken by the Executive Committee (Rich)**
 - a. Executive Committee Meeting of April 17, 2009. Process for designation of Paralympic team coach includes applications submitted (Steve Brown as coach, Rusty Schieber as alternate coach) – recommendations by Coaching Committee and approved unanimously by Executive Committee. **Erbach/Pelletier moved ratification. Motion approved.**

8. Nominating (Swandby)

Slate of nominations posted in Directors Corner on website

- a. Nominees for USCA officers for terms beginning May 1. Acceptance of slate/nominations from floor.
 1. President – Leland Rich
 2. VP – Kent Beadle, Walter Erbach, James Pleasants, Chris Sjue
 3. Treasurer – Jack Bernauer
 4. Secretary – Dave Carlson
- b. Nominee for WCF Representative – 3-year terms – Andy Anderson, Leland Rich
- c. Nominees for Board-elected Directors – 1-year terms: Jack Bernauer, Walt Erbach, Beau Welling
- d. Nominee for Nominating Committee – 2-year term – Jon Mielke

Motion to approve slate West/Carlson. Motion approved. No further nominations from floor. **Carlson moves nominations be closed and unanimous ballot be cast. West seconds. Motion approved.** Swandby noted that the AAC election may change AAC reps on Board.

9. Miscellaneous items (Rich)

- a. Appoint Andy Anderson as head of selection committee for 2012 Scot Tour.

10. Audit and Finance (Anderson)

- a. FY 2008-09 Variances – worst-case \$50-\$60,000 deficit. Retained earnings would support loss, but would require belt-tightening.
- b. Anderson and Bernauer examined and identified for destruction 72 boxes of records at the USCA central office. Destruction is per USCA policy.
- c. Bernauer and Anderson recommended NIKE VIK be entered onto our balance sheet. It has been done.
- d. Reviewed aged receivables – no problems.
- e. Reviewed status of roster reporting and dues.
 1. Staff is following up with clubs that have not yet reported and/or paid dues for 2008-2009.
 2. The Finance Committee examined the USCA's current policy with regard to delinquent clubs. From a PR standpoint, nobody wants to put a member association on probation when one club is delinquent. Noting that the USCA hasn't enforced its bylaw related to delinquent members, and so is looking at a better way to address this issue in the bylaws.
 3. Discussed pros and cons for a change to the dues deadline. Currently January 31 – playdown eligibility is a factor. Arena clubs may not be functioning until March or April. Looking at a structure option so that their dues will be assessed based on their spring membership.
- f. Reviewed financial policies. No revisions recommended to financial policies at this time.
 1. Credit cards for staff. Policy is reiterated that staff must use personal credit card. Cash advance is possible also. Committee is unanimous in support of continuing the current policy.
- g. Reviewed status of donation program.
- h. Reviewed status of long-term loan from WCF and collateral. Both are in good shape.

- i. WCF Stone Loan Program. All but one club is current with its stone loan payments; the USCA is current with its payment to the WCF. Some clubs have returned their stones and these stones have been reassigned.
- j. WCF policy regarding bricks and mortar funding to clubs: no funding available for next several years. Finance Committee will develop procedure for evaluating club requests for WCF funding and determining which requests will be advanced by the USCA to the WCF.
- k. Anderson requested a motion to appoint Reilly, Penner and Benton as our auditors for our FY 2008-09 audit and tax reports. **Bernaer/Badgero move to appoint the firm of Reilly, Penner and Benton as auditor of FY 2008-09 and to prepare tax forms for the same period. Motion approved.**
- l. Committee will address issue of currency exchange rates related to reimbursement requests.

11. Treasurer (Bernaer)

- a. FY 2007-08 audit report. No changes to the report Bernauer presented at the Fall Board Meeting.
- b. FY 2008-09 interim report. Bernauer reported on significant variances.
 - 1. Expenses: Under budget. \$10,000 for establishment of endowment fund won't be spent in FY 2008-09. \$3,000 under budget for new office rent/move. CurlTV over budget about \$3,000. Legal costs over budget by \$2,000 due to trademark renewal every 10 years – wasn't included in FY 2008-09 budget.
 - 2. Income: Dues budget is \$25,000 more than collections. Membership is down by about 5%. May be as much as \$10,000 under budget for revenue. Donation Program, \$25,000 budgeted - \$1,000 collected. May not reach \$25,000. New sponsorship: \$20,000 budgeted. Mercury Communications is optimistic that they will secure sponsorship. \$15,200 donated by Christopher and Dana Reeves will be deferred to FY 2009-10; that grant is to promote wheelchair curling.
 - 3. Worst-case \$40-\$50,000 deficit. Best-case will be breakeven.

12. Chief Operating Officer (Patzke)

- a. Board education. Patzke introduced Alan Ashley from USOC Sports Partnership. Ashley is the USOC Team Leader for Sport Performance for all winter Olympic sports. He was associated with US Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) before working with the USOC. Patzke reported on discussions with Ashley about the core business of the USCA. Patzke's perspective: we are about high performance – both on field of play and in all other areas of operation.
- b. Alan Ashley, USOC
 - 1. Ashley spoke about his experience working with USSA, and the relationship between an NGB's mission statement and its programs.
 - 2. Focus on the integration of grass roots, pipeline, elite athletes.
 - 3. USSA's mission became: we want to be best in the world. How does that impact the program? Can we create an environment where everybody is enthusiastic because our athletes are best in the world?
 - ◆ Looked at how competitors that are winning structure their programs.
 - ◆ Once USSA began to win at highest level (5 years), coaches and clubs expressed greater interest in supporting the association.
 - ◆ Shared information down the pipeline – strengthened coaching education program so that he/she could help athletes achieve.

- ◆ How does this affect me (clubs asked)? “It’s an attitude.” In the end, it made the organization stronger. Helped with television properties, sponsorship, and grassroots. A difficult and sensitive issue. What happens in the club is absolutely paramount to the health of the sport!
4. As we go into the Olympic Games, curling has tremendous opportunity. Easy to watch on television. People are engaged by watching it. Ashley urged the USCA to support team McCormick and Shuster so they do well – will benefit entire program.
 5. Board member question: In fundraising, the USCA isn’t able to talk about the Olympics or about Team USA – this seems to work against us in our fundraising efforts. How do you overcome that? USOC Ashley response: *Build your own brand. Make your brand the valuable brand. What makes our sport and athletes special? That becomes the battle cry for everything we do. “Best in the World.”* Board member follow-up question: And from the USOC perspective, why can’t we market our athletes? USOC Ashley response: *Olympic brand is highly protected. Ashley indicated he is sensitive to this issue.*
 6. Board member question: Did USSA build their brand with in-house staff? USOC Ashley response: *In-house. We had a marketing director that led efforts of PR, marketing, sales group, directors, athletes. We tested it in the marketing world. Would suggest getting professional help. Was simple, straightforward and we used it for everything.*
 7. Board member question: How many members does USSA have? USOC Ashley response: *33,000*
 8. Board member question: Curling’s culture is more social than athletic. USOC Ashley response: *USSA’s Masters were 10% competitive, 90% social. USSA engaged them by asking for their help to engage kids. Not trying to sell them anything – they said, “We need your help, can’t do it alone.” Engage people on behalf of the health, longevity and vibrancy of the sport’s future.*
 9. Board member question: What percent was your revenue stream? USOC Ashley response: *85% from private sources (sponsorship, fund-raising, membership dues); 15% from USOC. Nearly ¾ of the private source funding comes equally from sponsorship and fundraising. Revenue development is handled in-house because it was costing too much for outsourcing and the outside group didn’t understand the sport. Board was also engaged. One-half of Board was U.S. Ski Team Foundation, 6 from the sport side, Paralympic representation and athlete representation. 100-member board was reduced to 21 members. Many were independent directors who only raised funds. Sales force 3 people; fund-raising team 8 people. Fund-raising did special events, major gift solicitation, direct mail programs. Now there’s a large endowment to support athletic programs. USSA budget \$20 million. A lot of expense was related to television production – a way for sponsors to get value.*
 10. Question: Did your International Federation help with some of your television costs? USOC Ashley response: *We had to do it all. Made for TV events – former champions with current. Syndicated it. 1994-2003.*
 11. Comment: Curling takes 2.5 hours for 1 game. Skiing has a shorter time span. USOC Ashley response: *That is a challenge. But skiing has production challenges, too. It’s hard to shoot downhill. 80 athletes. TV highlights the very best athletes. USSA used television to promote the skill, demonstrate the drama. Athletes were concerned about the purity of the sport – but it benefited*

everyone. Going into Torino – focused on 9 athletes. Be straight forward with the athletes. Be sure to include all athletes, but in a different way.

12. Question: What is USSA's dues structure? USOC Ashley response: *Individual skiers pay to national organization. Structured by discipline because services are different.*

13. Question: What are USSA's membership incentives? USOC Ashley response: *Sanctioned competitions. Also buys you secondary insurance. Access issue and communications issue and an insurance issue. 100% of USSA's membership competes. But others can join as contributing member for \$30. USSA has a competition-based membership, e.g., \$130 for alpine. If clubs want to host an event, they pay \$300-\$400 per year. Gives them access to officials. West, Central and East regions for organizing competitions. 9 divisions fit into 3 regions into 1 nation.*

- c. Patzke reports that development of a marketing plan was one of his Kellogg Leadership course assignments. Patzke chose to write a plan on marketing to our individual curlers. Concept is that USCA doesn't touch the individual curlers as much as the clubs and regions do. Premise is that we start to deliver coaching education, skill education – online materials delivered exclusively through our USCA member database. This could also help clubs retain members.
- d. Patzke reminded Board members that each person markets curling. We all have 30-second opportunities to promote curling and leave a positive impression.

13. Strategic Planning (Rich)

- a. Rich indicated that he will study this area and report in September.

VP areas, reports:

14. Vice President Competitive Programs (Erbach)

- a. Report: Committee activities (Elite Programs, Coaching, World Team Preparation, Adaptive Curling & Sports Science).
- b. Erbach reported that Coaching had a conference call meeting prior to Board meeting.
 - 1. Reviewed certification program and coordination with Coaching Development Program.
- c. Adaptive Curling – Wheelchair curling.
 - 1. Reeve Foundation Grant – for lifestyle enhancement for people with spinal injury. Award of \$15,200.00.
 - 2. Our 2010 Paralympic Team has been selected.
 - 3. Our 2009 World Wheelchair Curling team finished 4th at Worlds.
- d. World Team Preparation [Legacie absent – report by Schroeder]
 - 1. Schroeder conveyed Legacie's appreciation to World Team Leaders and volunteers who assisted with World Team Preparation meeting.
 - 2. The WTP Committee discussed each world event for FY 2009-10 – per diems, uniform costs, transportation.
 - 3. Time element between M/W Nationals and Women's Worlds – 5-day turnaround time. Particular concern about airfare costs booked so close to departure date – can flights be booked in advance without names linked to tickets?
 - 4. Seniors and Mixed Doubles will be in Russia. Visa application fee running \$100-\$150-\$200 per person. Need letter of invitation well in advance of application for visas. Need at least one month for visa process. For a passport

to be considered current, it must not expire within 6 months of travel. Center for Disease Control in Atlanta will provide information about inoculations needed.

5. No Wheelchair Worlds in 2010 because of the Paralympic Winter Games.
 6. Discussion about 2010 Winter Olympics.
 7. Legacie, Schroeder and Erbach will have a conference call to determine budget projections for 2010.
 8. Team leader position proved beneficial to 2009 Women's and Men's team.
- e. Elite Programs
1. Team leaders are highly valuable. Thanks to Swandby and Krake for serving as Men's and Women's team leaders, respectively.
 2. Same process as FY 2008-09 will be used to determine team leaders for FY 2009-10. Apps before fall Board meeting so selection can be made then.
- f. Competitive Programs
1. Most efforts have been spent developing our high performance plan. Higgins reported.
 1. USOC Ashley participated in Curling's coaches' cadre in July and in planning meetings in October.
 2. Higgins reports that the USCA has realigned its high performance and competitive programs structure. He sees a tremendous opportunity for curling, but says it will take a shift of paradigms about how we use resources. Goal is to realign priorities to achieve competitive success. USOC is a resource for best practices.
 3. Competitive Programs developed a new high performance mission statement ... urgency to prepare teams to podium at Vancouver. Realigned staff structure as we move into Vancouver Games. The plan is very athlete centered and coaching driven, and the goal is to have resource and staff support focused on performance. Teams Shuster and McCormick will be our most prepared teams ever. Realigned staff roles: put our coaches in charge. Vancouver High Performance Coordinator will interface with them. There is to be one-channel communication – from the team-around-the-team to the coach to the team. The team-around-the-team was created to support our Olympic coaches. A National Development System will support coaches and athletes at the club level. Goal of Competitive Programs is to medal in 2010 and 2014.

12. - continued - COO report:

- a. USCA Event Services Coordinator Dawn Leurquin showed video tour of the new USCA offices on Clem's Way in Stevens Point.
- b. President Rich expressed thanks to USCA staff for their work on behalf of the USCA.

15. Vice President Marketing and Operations (Beadle)

- a. Revenue Development & Pin Program [Beadle reported for Solie]
 1. Beadle distributed written report. *[See Appendix page 15: Vice President Marketing and Operations Report]*
 2. Pins and funds were due back to Solie by April 15. We assume there will be a negative budget variance. Some clubs requested more pins and time – will be wrapped up by budget meeting.
 3. Fund-raising in this economy is not easy.

4. Initial program information sent to club presidents; requested pin chair contact information. In many cases, presidents did not respond to information or pass it on. Marketing directly to members may be more effective.
 5. Majority of participants like concept of having single pin, varying levels of gifts for donation levels, and ability to target donations.
 6. Some clubs that didn't participate in the past participated this year. Some clubs have done better. Some have done worse. Some misunderstandings and miscommunications.
 7. Now have a web presence so that Olympic pins, Donation Program donations, can be handled online. USCA website will have link to URL for pins.
- b. Planned Giving/Endowment. Last fall Rich offered to chair the committee. Rich succeeded Moore as president. \$10,000 budgeted for Planned Giving development will not be spent in FY 2008-09.
1. Chris Moore Legacy Fund initiated by one of Moore's childhood friends. Moore was aware of fund establishment prior to his death. Over \$10,000 in fund now. Additional contributions anticipated. Contemplating incorporating the Chris Moore Legacy Fund into an endowment. Working with Rich to form a committee to oversee the fund: Jon Melzer, Tracie Moore, and others.
- c. Corporate Sponsors/Large donors [Welling]
1. Spent time last fall trying to develop an event for potential sponsors in Texas. Then stock market fell – we were well-received but time was not right for donation.
 2. Macro concept: a way to wrap our organization in the flag of the U.S. to attract people outside the sport. Question is: How can we bring folks from other regions to curling? Golf event in Kohler during HP camp. Fundraising event with proceeds to go to the USCA – late summer. 2010 will be a major year for golf – tie in the 2010 Olympic athletes with golf.
- d. Bylaws/Governance [Carlson] - Proposed amendments to sections 4.3 and 9.3 [*see Appendix page 17: Proposed USCA By-laws Changes*]
1. 4.3a indicates 2/3 vote. Amendment to 4.3 is to make it consistent with 4.3a. **Pelletier/Erbach move approval.** Current bylaws require Board of Directors to vote on the removal of any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board. By-laws Committee did not look how other boards remove officers – proposed amendment is to make 4.3 consistent with 4.3a. As bylaws are written, a majority vote is needed for removal; this amendment increases it to 2/3. **Motion approved.**
 2. 9.3 clarifies intent of what is to be done if the USCA organization dissolves. Must distribute assets to other 501(c)(3) organizations. Proposed amendment specifies the date used for determining eligibility for receipt. How distribution determination is made is clarified. **Erbach/Brunt move approval. Welling moves to amend the motion to include capitalizing the "T" in "individual." Williams seconds. Motion to amend approved. Motion as amended approved.**
- e. Human Resources (Swandby)
1. Historically HR deals with Central Office staff.
 2. Most important item in FY 2008-09 is the addition of Jean Lindner, USCA Administrative Assistant, which brings USCA to full staff at level when former COO retired. Dawn Leurquin was promoted to Event Services Coordinator. Patzke coordinated realignment of duties that involves Central Office staff.
 3. New office facilities have had a positive impact.

4. Staff performance review. Patzke does staff reviews. HR will conduct COO performance review.
5. Staff development. Continued participation in Kellogg program by Patzke. Kolesar, Robinson, Patzke will attend ACES meeting on Finance and Digital Media in early May.
6. HR committee investigating possibility of using interns. Colleges, technical colleges are potential resources.
7. Swandby expresses thanks to staff.
- f. Athlete/Curler Recognition (Maskel [absent] – report by Beadle)
 1. Committee will meet this summer to select Athlete of the Year, Team of the Year.
 2. Hall of Fame nominations are due June 1.
- g. Media (Kolesar [absent] – report by Patzke)
 1. Patzke reported that Kolesar did a terrific job at Trials. The USCA received compliments from major media about her work at the Trials.
- h. Leadership Development (Beadle)
 1. Pelletier will have a new orientation this fall, including a session on director responsibilities.

16. Vice President Championships (Pleasants)

- a. Report: Committee activities (Format, Awards, Field of Play, Rules & Officiating & Event Site Selection).
- b. Championship Committee recommends the purchase of Championship rocks. History: we have been renting WCT rocks – a package deal with icemaker. WCT rocks will no longer be available. There are no suitable rocks in Kalamazoo for our 2010 Nationals. Exchange rate is favorable: Kay’s of Scotland – 5 sheets of rocks and handles \$38,000 plus tax, including shipping. Will also need shipping cases. Storage: central office in Stevens Point. Will need to test them, break them in, match them. Committee recommends purchasing them now. Handles are \$38/handle - \$3,000 total. This has been on the agenda of the Championships Committee for several years. Discussed corporate sponsorship. Discussed some USOC funding for purchase. Patzke noted that the idea of the Chris Moore Legacy Fund was that 75% of fund would be used to purchase rocks with “CM” engraved on them. **Erbach moves authorization of immediate contract with Kay’s to purchase 5 sets of rocks (including shipping cases, import duty, taxes) for the terms of the contract offered to the USCA, with adjustments for currency, not to exceed \$50,000. Pelletier seconds.** It is possible to purchase them matched and broken in, engraved with numbers – done for most nations’ stones when they’re purchasing their first rocks. Involve Lukowich and Schmidt and others knowledgeable in the process. Rocks will be championship rocks and for use by elite teams. WCF depreciates stones over 20 years. Treasurer Bernauer suggests 25 years. Quote is for blue hone inserts on both sides – that could double the life expectancy. Concerns: we want to be cautious and clear about how stones are cooled down and how handles are assembled – there will be annual maintenance costs. Insurance will be an additional cost. **Motion approved.**
- c. Site Selection (Maier). *[see Appendix page 18: Site Selection]*
 1. Maier noted we won’t need a Wheelchair site in FY 2009-10 because of the Paralympic Games.
 2. Maier reviewed the sites that have been selected. Women’s Challenge Round at Blackhawk is on hold.

3. Club Nationals TBD. Madison has double bid: Club Nationals 2010 and Junior Nationals for 2012. Committee approved 2010 Club Nationals bid from Madison. Consideration of double bids is a policy concern. Issue is referred back to committee.
4. 2010 – 2011:
 - a. Add Mixed Doubles – Duluth
 - b. Add: Junior Nationals – Fairbanks
5. 2012 – Rochester site on hold.
6. Noting that Judy Maier is retiring from the Board, the Board thanked Judy for her service as Site Selection chair and as a Director.
- d. Arena Site for Nationals. Feedback is that hosting Nationals at an arena is a good, workable model. Denver Olympic Curling Trials volunteers and Pam Finch were recognized for an excellent job. USCA learned a lot about running an arena event. Kalamazoo 2010 Nationals Organizing Committed members were in Denver, and learned much. The Trials provided great exposure for curling with Olympic Committee members.
- e. Rules and Officiating (Williams). *[see Appendix page 21: Rules & Officiating]:*
 1. Reviewed status of number of Officials at each certification level:
 1. Level 4: 3
 2. Level 3: 12
 3. Apprentice level 3: Rules and Officiating Committee did not advance any Apprentice-level 3 Officials at this time.
 4. Levels 1 and 2: Participation in Level 1 and Level 2 Officiating Courses during the year increased the number of officials at those levels.
 5. Williams reported that the USCA was stretched thin in the 2008-2009 season with our Chief Umpires. Chief Umpires travel at their own expense, with few exceptions.
 6. Committee reviewed incidents that Chief Umpires had to deal with in 2008-2009. Athletes and coaches fill out officiating surveys. Good feedback. – the vast majority of Officials getting very high marks. Timers are almost always criticized – most have never done it before. Even though many had taken the timing course, timers needed actual games experience to be proficient.
 7. Laptop timing clocks were used by 3 playdown sites. Athletes like it. Can see the time remaining all the time. The Committee encourages sites to use laptop timing and will be writing guidelines about using laptop timing at events.
 8. As some Officials move up in their certification levels, one of the opportunities they work toward is officiating at a WCF event. WCF covers their expenses. WCF has been using our officials more and more. We hope that continues.
- f. The Board discussed providing more funding for championship Officials. Championship Committee noted that ideally we'd cover all officials' expenses, especially if they travel. However, payment to officials would reduce the amount available to distribute to teams for their travel. In some cases, officials go to events to move up in certification. One way to reduce expenses is for site to offer to put Chief Umpire up in someone's house. USCA should encourage this. Many sites provide free meals to officials.
- g. Percolating:
 1. Anticipate WCF rules changes. Comment period deadline is January 1. Committee will make recommendations.
 2. Committee will review clarifications of USCA rules.

- h. National Championship travel stipends will henceforth be calculated based on MapQuest shortest-distance calculations.
- i. Format issues being considered:
 - 1. 50% more entrants in Men's and Women's playdowns than in the past. Proportionality of numbers distribution had anomalies that affected the strength of the competition. VP Pleasants reviewed the allocations based on using strength of field to determine the whole field. A strength-of-field rating had been developed as a tie-breaker mechanism. Pleasants determined that had strength of field had been used to determine the Trials teams, the competitive field would have been stronger.
 - 2. 2009-2010 is an Olympic year:
 - 1. Championships calendar will be affected.
 - 2. Olympic teams have option of bye into Nationals if they so choose.

Adjourn for day at 5:07 p.m. – recess until 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 19, 2009. 8:05 a.m. President Rich reconvenes the meeting. Carlson confirms quorum is present.

17. Member Services (Sjue [absent] – report by Member Services Director Schroeder)

- a. Report: Committee activities (Club Membership & Development; College Curling, Arena Curling, Youth Curling, Training & Instruction & ACF&M).
- b. Youth (Schroeder reports for chair Moulton)
 - 1. Schroeder reports on the Junior Camps planned for the remainder of FY 2008-09 and for FY 2009-10. Cape Cod – July 2009; Green Bay (previously held in Eau Claire) – July 24-26, 2009; Rice Lake – August 2009 (elite competitive team camp); Bismarck did not have a camp in FY 2008-09 – plans to have a camp in October. New camp in FY 2008-09: St. Paul – May 29-31 – advanced competitive elite junior curling camp with rigorous application – maximum 40 – guest instructor will be Kevin Martin – cost is \$135.
 - 2. U-18 Optimist: representation from 3 junior men and 2 junior women (1 junior woman's team withdrew).
- c. Club Membership and Development (Schroeder reports for Larson)
 - 1. The USCA will participate in the 2009 NARCE (North American Rink Conference & Expo) convention. Larson gives presentation on curling at these conventions.
 - 2. The USCA will not participate in the ISI (Ice Skating Institute) convention this year, as its focus is on figure skating.
 - 3. Schroeder reports that the committee discussed ideas for Olympic promotions.
 - 4. Schroeder reports that the USCA plans to send Olympic promotional materials with Member Services
- d. College Curling
 - 1. Illinois State Curling Association has overseen the program, which included the National Bonspiel in Chicago, Ill., in March. 29 teams participated in two regional events (Bowling Green, Ohio, and Broomstones, Wayland, Mass.).
 - 2. Committee recommends some modifications to the events if the USCA oversees them in the future.
- e. Training and Instruction (Schroeder reported for Committee Chair Mielke) [*see Appendix page 28: Training & Instruction and see Appendix page 29: Instructional Camps & Clinics*]

1. Several mini-conferences took the place of 1 large Member Services conference.
 2. Regional Coordinators identified and assisted with Instructor training.
 3. Committee reworked the certification requirements for Instructor courses. Current certification and training levels: 13 Level 1 Instructors, 5 Level 2 Instructors – and 204 new Instructors trained.
 4. Curling Skills Camps were also offered as part of the mini-conferences.
- f. No report on Arena Curling at this time.
- g. Stone Committee [Wilson absent; report by Schroeder] [*see Appendix page 30: Stone Committee Report*]
1. WCF Stone Loan Program
 1. 7 sets were returned and relocated: Returns came from Brainerd, Copper Country and Massena. Sets went to Hollywood, Kalamazoo, Long Island and Green Mountain (Vermont).
 2. Looking at requesting 10 more sets from the WCF. If we have the demand for 10 sets (based on assessing interest), we will consider ordering.
 3. Clubs have made their initial installment payments to the USCA. USCA has paid first installment to WCF.
 4. USCA and WCF have had a good working relationship during this program.
- h. Member Services Conference
1. Initial concept was large conference in a single location, with invitations sent to regional representatives. One weekend in length.
 2. In FY 2008-09 committee developed mini conferences. Included an Instructor course. Mini membership conference invitations were extended to regional associations. Also included a skills camp that was open to anyone interested: delivery, slide, release, video analysis, some strategy discussions, end-to-end situational play.
 3. Mielke conducted 8 skills camps in FY 2008-09. Very enthusiastically received.
 4. Anticipate holding 2-3 mini conferences throughout the U.S. 2009-2010 plans: MoPac has requested a mini-conference. Some mini-conferences will focus on arena curling; others will focus on clubs with dedicated ice. Mini-conferences provide flexibility to meet regional needs and requests.
 5. Cost is less for the mini-conferences than for a single, large conference.
- i. Fall Mailing
1. The FY 2008-09 fall mailing included a survey about what clubs find most valuable/least valuable about the fall mailing. Survey deadline of November 17. Those clubs that responded were entered into a drawing for a large club banner. 20 responded. Winners: Lake Placid, Columbus, Triangle, St. Paul. There will be surprise again in FY 2009-10.
- j. Boy Scout Jamboree: Curling presence was well-received!
- k. Disabled Veterans group meeting in Denver in 2010. Considering a booth/presentation during the conference.

18. USOC (Patzke)

- a. USOC/AAC report (Maskel [absent] – report by Brunt)
 1. No report.
- b. No additional report from Patzke.

19. **Athletes Advisory Council (Joraanstad)**

- a. No report.

20. **World Curling Federation (Anderson, Hatch, Lowe, Rich and Swandby) – Swandby reported**

- a. 45th Member of the WCF welcomed: Turkey. Erzurum, Turkey, will hold the 2011 World Universiade Games
- b. DAP grant (Development Assistance Program) – available for grassroots expenditures. In FY 2008-09 was \$12,000 (due to exchange rates). FY 2009-10 will be \$10,000. In 2010 the WCF membership fee will increase by \$100.00 to \$2,600.00
- c. Marketing Group hired by WCF – Infront Sports and Media– brought some title sponsors to events, including a title sponsor in Korea. They have uniform branding activities across the entire sport. Infront is suggesting they come up with a uniform concept that would allow variations for each country.
- d. Broadcasting is increasing. 70 million people watched the 2009 Universiade (World University Games) in China. More people watched the Women’s World Championships worldwide than the Super Bowl. A lot of activity worldwide.
- e. The WCF Representatives of Member Associations passed a motion to accept the WCF proposal for Winter Youth Olympic Games. Innsbruck, Austria, January 13-22, 2012. Planned as a 10-day multicultural event for athletes ages 14-18. [*NOTE: The following update is taken from the WCF minutes provided after the USCA Board Meeting: “Following further discussions between the IOC and each of the Winter Sports Federations, the age group finally agreed on for the Curling Competitions, is 16/17 years i.e. athletes born between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1995.”*] Competition will be in 2 parts – Mixed and Mixed Doubles, and will include a day of education.
 1. Mixed – 2 of each gender. 16 Mixed teams playing down to medals.
 2. Mixed Doubles – 1 of each gender. 32 Mixed Doubles teams, with teams formed of athletes from differing countries.
 3. Winter Youth Olympic Games will use zone system similar to Worlds for selecting teams.
 4. Will be the same year as summer Olympics.
 5. Funding is coming from the IOC for housing, travel. Shouldn’t cost USCA beyond selection process, uniforms.
 6. Classified as a protected event.
 7. Championships Committee will determine team selection process.
- f. World Juniors
 1. Serious problems with alcohol at Junior Worlds. WCF had to pay for cost of emergency services to come in response to fire alarms pulled.
 2. Canada, Japan, Korea and U.S. were identified as countries that behaved themselves.
 3. The WCF is implanting a ban on all alcohol consumption at World Junior events. No adults or juniors will have alcohol at events.
 4. Penalty to countries that violate the alcohol ban will be substantial.
- g. The WCF is having problems with countries withdrawing from sign-up-and-go events. Fines will be levied.
- h. The WCF is having problems with countries not following dress codes at world events.
- i. Rules changes. Deadline of January 2010 for the USCA’s recommendations. The WCF Representatives of Member Associations will vote in April 2010 on revisions that will take effect the next season, and be in effect the next quad. USCA WCF Representatives

recommend the USCA be proactive and develop responses to suggestions now rather than waiting until something is issued from the WCF.

1. Discussing doing away with timeouts for Men and Women, for TV purposes. U.S. coaches disagree with this suggestion.
 2. The WCF will probably change the timing method. Instead of timing the playing time, they'll time the thinking time between the shots. Will reduce the time from 73 minutes to 24 minutes for 10-end game. The WCF has been working with these for WCT games. Madison Curling Club has used this method. Coaching Development Director Higgins noted that this will have a major effect on coaching and suggested doing a survey of coaches. Swandby indicated Junior competitions may retain timeouts.
 3. The WCF is suggesting that tiebreakers be eliminated to reduce expense and to be able to schedule television.
 4. *Appendix page 31* is a report from the WCF Open Forum on Rules and Competitions. This report details the rules and competition changes that are under consideration by the WCF.
- j. WCF discussed holding World Seniors and World Mixed Doubles in December in 2-3 years. Goal is to provide ease to competition schedule for WCF and member countries.
 - k. Warren Lowe recommends that when the USCA orders the championship rocks, we consider paying to have them run out at Green Acres. Green Acres is 30 miles from stone factory, so the distance will be short if stones need reworking.

21. USWCA (Farr [absent] – Judy Maier reported) [see Appendix page 34: /USCA/USWCA Liaison Report]

- a. The USWCA and USCA share common issues including promoting membership; reinstatement of former member clubs; fundraising; junior curling development; marketing; host sites; budget issues; developing the sport of curling; officer replacement.
- b. USWCA has developed an officer replacement policy.
- c. The USWCA unanimously cast a ballot for a resolution in support of Chris Moore and his fight against cancer.
- d. Jennifer Stannard from Nutmeg is the incoming USWCA president.

22. Open board action items

- a. No board action items.

23. Unfinished business

- a. Rich acknowledged and thanked retiring Directors Judy Maier and Karen Tait.
- b. Movement afoot to make curling the official Olympic sport of South Carolina. Joint resolution of house and senate. Welling will submit report to legislature.

24. New business

- a. BUDGET MEETING – May 29-31, 2009 – Green Bay, Wisconsin
- b. Next USCA Board of Directors meeting – September – September 25-27 in Minneapolis.
[NOTE: The meeting location was later changed to Green Bay, Wisconsin.]

25. Adjourn Motion to adjourn West/Pelletier. Motion approved, 9:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Carlson, Secretary

**United States Curling Association
Board Meeting Minutes
April 18-19, 2008**

Appendices

APPENDIX: Vice President Marketing and Operations Report



TO: USCA Directors April 16th, 2009
FROM: Kent Beadle
SUBJECT: Report – Marketing and Operations

1) Revenue Development (Pin/Donation Program)

I'll start with Tim Solie's comments:

Unfortunately, I have to work this weekend so I will be unable to attend the USCA meetings. I have a few thoughts about the pin program. Materials and checks were due back at the USCA office on April 15, and I have received about 3 e-mails from various pin chairs requesting more time as they are still trying to sell pins. I felt they should have the additional time.

I have communicated with Steve Lebens of SS Design and the goal is to work towards the fulfillment part of this at the end of April (could be May given the requests of pin chairs).

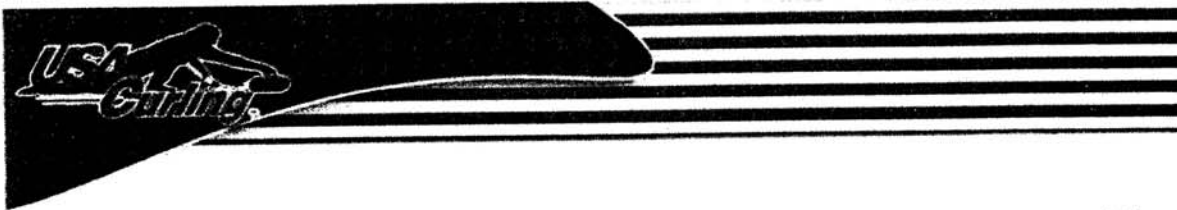
Some issues or ideas that came up this year:

- 1) a sour economy
- 2) Initial information got to Club Presidents but sort of died there in some cases and didn't get out to potential pin chairs or club members.
- 3) Some pin chairs wanted an additional flyer, brochure, or possibly premium items to display.
- 4) One club has a billing system which gets complicated when the donation levels change nearly every year.
- 5) One person suggested specific fundraising goals.
- 6) One nice lady thought we should go back to bronze, silver, and gold levels.

Obviously, with a program like this, one size doesn't fit all. However, with regard to the last item the vast majority of people I talked to like the direction we took with premium items and were curious as to how this would work out. In addition, being the person that distributed the pins - it was so much easier to deal with a single pin design than try and figure out if this pin was gold or bronze. This is a lot of work, but it always makes me a little nervous closing any revenue stream - even if it's a small one. I will get additional numbers and information out to you in a few weeks or so. Best Wishes.

I am aware of some clubs who have not participated in the past that are selling pins this year, and some clubs that are doing better than in previous years. However, I am also aware of some mistakes and misunderstandings that resulted in some clubs contributing significantly less.

I we have finished a mechanism for web donations and it is my intention to continue the "market" via e-mail the program immediately in order to catch others who might be



willing to make a donation but did not previously or were not contacted because a club failed to provide us with a pin chair. The web-site is <http://usacurl.mybisi.com/>. Check-out requires a free Google account.

2) Planned Giving

Leland Rich initially was going to head up this committee but with Chris Moore's passing and with Leland taking the Presidency, this left us without a chair. We had \$10,000 budgeted for the initiation of this program and with indications that membership might be down and other fund-raising efforts challenging, I was reluctant to push to spend this money. However, it is a priority to establish this program. The issue will be using outside sources to do so as it is my understanding that the outside help will require additional funds beyond the 10,000 budget.

3) Large Donor/Corporate Sponsorship

The San Antonio large donor effort did not come off due to cold feet on the part of the host due to the rapidly contracting economy this fall. The sales "video" that was to be produced in conjunction with this was put on hold until this can be rescheduled, hopefully as the economy shows signs of recovery and Beau's contacts become more "comfortable" with the situation again. We are looking at a golf outing this spring as a fund raising event that could incorporate Olympians who will be training in the area.

4) Athlete Recognition/Hall of Fame

Committee will be meeting this summer to determine Team of the Year, Male Athlete of the Year, Female Athlete of the Year, Bruce Bennett Award, Jack Kelly Fair Play Award, and any Hall of Fame nominees currently under consideration or nominated this year by the deadline. Over the course of the year, there has been discussion about a re-writing of their "by-laws" into a "standards and procedures" document that has more objective criteria and definitions for HOF consideration. This is in progress.

5) Human Resources

Mark Swandby to report.

6) By-Laws

Dave Carlson to report.

7) Office Space

Move to new space was completed successfully and to the benefit of staff productivity and organizational objectives.

APPENDIX: PROPOSED USCA BY-LAW CHANGES APRIL, 2009

Current By-Law:

Section 4.3 REMOVAL. Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby.

Proposed Change:

Section 4.3 REMOVAL. Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by **2/3 majority vote** by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby.

Explanation:

Section 4.3 as it current exists implies that a majority vote is sufficient to remove an officer. To be consistent with Section 4.3A concerning determination of temporary removal of an officer and reinstatement on the basis of 2/3rds vote, it is recommended that a 2/3rds majority vote be required to remove an officer on a permanent basis.

Current By-Law:

Section 9.3 DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS ON DISSOLUTION. On the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of the corporation, shall be distributed to any and all Members exempt under Section 501I(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The assets remaining will be distributed proportionately to that Member's total number of registered dues paying Curlers as compared to the total of registered dues paying Curlers of all other Member's organized under Section 501I(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Proposed Change:

Section 9.3 DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS ON DISSOLUTION. On the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of the corporation, shall be distributed to any and all Members exempt under Section 501I(3) of the Internal Revenue Code **as of the date of dissolution**. The assets remaining will be distributed proportionately to that

Member's total number of registered ~~dues paying curlers~~ individual Members as compared to the total of registered ~~dues paying curlers~~ individual Members of all ~~other~~ Member's organized under Section 501I(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Explanation:

This is to clarify the mathematical calculation in determining how the assets of the USCA are to be divided amongst the various qualified Members upon dissolution. The current By-Law as stated causes there to be inconsistent distributions amongst the Members because the calculation would not be made on a consistent basis from Member to Member. For example if Member A had 300 Members and Member B had 500 Members and the total membership was 2,000, Member A's distribution as based upon the current By-Law would be calculated on a proportion of 300/1,700 and Member B's distribution would be based upon a calculation of 500/1,500. Thus, the proportionate calculations would be inconsistent from Member to Member.

This is also to clarify the date membership qualification to receive distribution of assets upon dissolution is to be determined. The current By-Law is ambiguous as to when a Member's qualification to receive dissolution distributions is to be determined.

This is also to clarify how the number of individuals that belong to a state or region are to be determined. Using the term "registered individual members" is consistent with the definition as set forth in Article 2, Section 2.5.

**APPENDIX: SITE SELECTION – NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SITES APPROVED
& SITE BIDS TO BE APPROVED*
(as of April 15, 2009)**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
2009 – 2010 SITES		
World Wheelchair Team Select.	TBD	Dec. 3-6
Mixed Doubles National Champ.	Seattle Granite, WA*	Dec. 3-6
Men's Qualifier		
East	Potomac, MD*	Jan. 6-10
Midwest North	Fargo-Moorhead, ND	Jan. 6-10
Midwest South	Mankato, MN*	Jan. 6-10
West	Fairbanks, AK*	Jan. 6-10
Women's Qualifier		
East	Nashua, NH*	Jan. 5-10
Midwest	Green Bay, WI*	Jan. 5-10
West	Fairbanks, AK*	Jan. 5-10
Junior M/W National Champ.	Bemidji, MN	Jan 23-30
Men's Sr. National Champ.	Portage, WI	Jan. 27-31
Women's Sr. National Champ.	Cape Cod, MA	Jan. 28-31
Men's Challenge	Grafton, ND*	Feb. 4-7
Women's Challenge	Janesville, WI*	Feb. 4-7
M/W National Champ./Trials	Kalamazoo, MI	Mar. 6-13
M/W Club National Champ.	TBD	Feb. 20-27
Mixed National Champ.	Chicago, IL	Mar. 20-27
2010 – 2011 SITES		
Men's Qualifier		
East	Rochester, NY*	Jan. 5-9
West	Seattle Granite, WA	Jan. 5-9
Women's Qualifier – East	Nutmeg, Conn*	Jan. 5-9
Junior M/W National Champ.	Broomstones, MA* Fairbanks, AK*	Feb. 5-12
2012 – 2013 SITES		
Women's East Qualifying Rd.	Rochester, NY*	Jan. 3-6

* Site Bids that need to be approved

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
2010 WORLD EVENTS		
Olympics	Vancouver, BC	Feb. 12-28
World Juniors	Flims, Switzerland	Mar. 5-14
World Women's	Swift Current, Saskatch.	Mar. 20-28
World Men's	Cortina, Italy	Apr. 3-11
World M/W Seniors	Chelyabinsk, Russia	Apr. 16-24
World Mixed Doubles	Chelyabinsk, Russia	Apr. 15-24

2011 WORLD EVENTS

Winter World Univ. Games	Erzurum, Turkey	Jan. 27-Feb. 6
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APPENDIX: Rules and Officiating Committee Report

To: Championships Committee

From: Sam Williams, chairman, Rules & Officiating

Date: April 20, 2009 [abridged August, 2009. Full version on file.]

Re: Report on 2008-9 officiating and rules meeting in the Bistro Restaurant, Marriott Hotel, Bloomington, MN on Friday April 17, 2009, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Attendees:

Kent Beadle	Jim Pleasants	Leland Rich	Sam Williams
John Benton	Bev Schroeder	Judy Maier	
Nicole Joraanstad	Walter Erbach	Paul Badgero	

Agenda:

1. Officiating Clinics held in 2008-9
2. Officiating status, candidates for Level III certification
3. Championship events, notes and athlete feedback
4. Laptop timing
5. Proposed changes to Rules & Procedures
6. Additions to the Officiating Manual
7. Draw issues
8. WCF proposed rule changes, to be in effect after Cortina for the next 4 years.
9. USCA officiating at WCF events

1. Officiating clinics held

Denver, Oct. 11-12, Level I & II, instructed by Donna Statzell

Broomstones, Oct. 19, 10 total Level I & II, Instructed by Herb Kupchik

Ardsley, Nov. 15, Level I, Instructed by Ken McPartlin

Janesville, Jan. 4, Level I, Instructed by Phil Janusiak

Utica, Jan-Mar., Instructed by Peggy Rotton

Devil's Lake, Feb. 2, Instructed by George Phillips

Seattle, Dec. 20, 12 Level I, Instructed by Joe Roberts

Itasca men's qualifier had no timing. At a championship site, generally the Chief Umpire is not local, and the recruitment of officials becomes the responsibility of the site chair or his/her delegate. Too often, upon arrival at the site, the Chief Umpire learns of recruitment difficulties or insufficiencies that could have been worked out better in advance of the event. It is recommended that the Chief Umpire maintain sufficient advance communication with the site to ensure that suitable officiating services are provided the event. It would be helpful to the site to have a list of certified officials of whom to request service. Names and clubs could be available at all times on the web site.

2. Officiating status

Level IV officials: Bill Forsythe, George Phillips, Peggy Rotton

Level III officials:

Grayland Cousins	Ken McPartlin	Carol Stevenson
Phil Janusiak	Gerald Patterson	Greg Volk
Gwen Krailo	Norm Reinhart	
Herb Kupchik	Donna Statzell	

Apprentice Level III officials:

Sherry Holloway	Mike Kirkeby	Joe Roberts
Fred Hopke	Leslie Gailey	Joel Russ
Melissa Fox	Eydie Savett	
F.L. Ettlin	Mary Pat Shandor	

Candidates for Level III certification. No action taken on these candidates at this time.

Mike Kirkeby
Fred Hopke
Eydie Savett

3. Championship events, selected notes and athlete feedback.

2008-2009 Officiating Calendar

Event	Site	Chief Umpire	Report	Athlete feedback
WUG Trials	Rice Lake, WI	Melissa Fox	X	X
Wheelchair Team Selection	Utica	Eydie Savett	X	
Mixed Doubles Championship	Two Harbors, MN	Ken McPartlin	X	X
Junior Nationals	Devil's Lake, ND	Greg Volk		
Women's Senior Nationals	Janesville, WI	Phil Janusiak		
Men's Senior Nationals	Rice Lake, WI	Gerry Patterson		
Men's Qualifier Round				
East	Brookline, MA	Herb Kupchik	X	X
Midwest North	Itasca, MN	Mike Kirkeby		
Midwest South	Centerville, WI	Carol Stevenson	X	X
West	Seattle, WA	Joe Roberts	X	X

Women's Qualifier Round				
East	Ardsley, NY	Eydie Savett	X	X
Midwest	Green Bay, WI	Melissa Fox	X	X
West	Seattle, WA	Joe Roberts	X	X
Men's Challenge Round	Bismarck, ND	Bill Forsythe		
Women's Challenge Round	Green Bay, WI	Phil Janusiak		
M&W National Championships/Olympic Trials	Denver, CO	George Phillips		
Club Nationals	Utica, NY	Fred Hopke	X	X
Mixed Nationals	Medford, WI	Gwen Krailo	X	X

We need higher returns on the officiating surveys. A suggestion was made to add a check box to indicate if the feedback is from an individual or a team.

Chief Umpire Reports

Some details of the Chief Umpire reports were shared with the committee for discussion, and are on file.

The following recommendations result from items in the reports.

-Recommended for the Officiating Manual: For Mixed Doubles, for each set of 8 stones, mark two stones as “position” stones, one for each end of the sheet. Also, remove one stone from each sheet. These steps were used at the Mixed Doubles Championship in Two Harbors.

-Provide guidance to Umpires on post round robin rock selection. Take discretion away from the Chief Umpire for more consistency. Provide a flow chart for post round robin advantages to make it easier for the Chief Umpire to know what to do.

-As a case study in the Officiating Manual, add the following incident which occurred in the Trials Finals in Denver:

In a women's round-robin game between Team A and Team B, an incident occurred that interrupted a game for nearly 30 minutes. While sweeping a rock thrown by the third, the second on team A tripped on a rock in the house, and fell. The teams spent about 5 minutes explaining what happened to the OIS, who apparently became overwhelmed and backed off. The teams then spent about 5 minutes explaining what happened to the DCU, who became overwhelmed and backed off, at which point the CU intervened. It took another 20 minutes for the CU to resolve the issue, as the CU went back and forth between individuals on both teams before making a decision.

Ultimately the ruling was made: the non-offending skip (Team B) was give the three options: 1. leave all stones where they came to rest, 2. remove the stone whose course would have been altered

from play and replace in their original positions any stones that were displaced after the violation, or 3. position all stones where she reasonably considers they would have come to rest had the stone not been touched. The skip elected option 2, the stones were re-positioned according to the magnetic board held by the on-ice observer, and play resumed.

This issue was complicated by the fact that the offending team originally claimed to not know if the stone the player tripped on was a stationary stone or a stone in motion, and later said they were sure it was a stationary stone. The non-offending team insisted that the player tripped on a stone in motion. The ruling is the same in either case, and should have been arrived at more promptly.

4 Laptop timing

Laptop timing consists of the timer on each sheet using a laptop computer running a timing program, and an external flat-screen monitor positioned up against the glass, facing the players on the ice. The obvious benefit is that the players can see the time remaining at all times during a game, the same as during an event where USCA clocks are used. Timers also prefer laptop timing because it allows them to switch clocks with the single press of a button, in contrast to the small kitchen timers which require the timer to stop one clock and start the other. One-button operation assures there is no dead time, as required by the timing rules. The advantages are especially clear near the end of a game when time is running low. A consequences of laptop timing is that mistakes made by the timer are more obvious to the players, but this is also true when USCA clocks are used. Another downside is the requirement for the equipment, and the fear that some officials and/or timers have regarding computers and electronics. These fears will be diminished as people become more familiar with the equipment and the process. Laptop computers and flat-screen monitors are becoming increasingly common, which lowers the hurdle of acquiring or borrowing them for the purpose of laptop timing.

There are several existing laptop timing programs:

- At least one that originated in Canada and is available for a fee,
- Compete-AT has provided a free timing program, but the numbers are small and advertising takes up some screen space.
- Leland Rich wrote one.
- Joe Roberts, a curler and official at Seattle Granite wrote the “curlclock” program.
- There likely are others.

During the 2008-9 season, laptop timing was used at the Seattle Qualifiers, the Green Bay Qualifier, and the GNCC Club playdowns. The program used at all three sites was Joe Roberts’ “curlclock” program for the PC, available here:

<http://www.universeofsynergy.com/curlclock> . This program was modified for use with Macintosh computers by Jeremy Dinsel, also a Seattle curler and official, and may be found here:
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/curlingtimer/>

Laptop timing as a replacement for kitchen timers should be encouraged by the USCA. With the help of those who have used laptop timing, we are writing instructions to assist officials and site chairs in how to acquire and setup the equipment, with a list of pitfalls to avoid.

5. Proposed changes to Rules and Procedures book

(Current rules are in italics.)

Event procedures.

Assignment of Practice Time and Stone Handle Color.

At events with an odd number of round robin games, teams will flip a coin for practice time and stone color in their first draw.

Eliminate stone color from the choice. Stone color in all games will be assigned, to be consistent with WCF procedures, and to give the most fair assignment of stone color. This was done in all draws for the 2008-9 season.

F. Start of any Championship. *Each championship event will begin upon the arrival of the USCA Chief Umpire. [...] Once the championship begins, ANY ice use other than the championships must be coordinated and approved by the Chief Umpire.*

How should sites respond to requests for practice time prior to the arrival of the Chief Umpire? I have been asked this question by the site chairman on more than one occasion. My answer has been, if the site agrees to allow one team to practice, then to be fair they should offer all participating teams a similar opportunity.

Add guidance to the Rules & Procedures manual.

J. Pre-game practice and game times.

Proposed: For Mixed Doubles, first practice will begin 20 minutes before the start of the game.

....Practice will include one minute of slide time, followed by five minutes of throwing/sweeping practice. This is instead of 6 minutes of throwing/sweeping practice. This schedule was used at the 2008 Mixed Doubles Championship with the agreement of the players. Since there are only two players in Mixed Doubles, less practice time is needed.

M. Game Timing

1. *Each team receives 73 minutes for a 10 end game, and 59 minutes for an 8 end game. This is to accommodate timing at Seniors championships. The logic is that 15 minutes is the typical time required to play one end, or 7.5 minutes for each team. For a 10-end game, each team is allowed 75 minutes. When timeouts were introduced, the WCF did not want to lengthen the time allowed, so the two 1-minute timeouts allowed in a 10-end game were taken away from the 75 minutes, leaving 73 minutes. At 15 minutes per end, an 8-end game should take 60 minutes. Seniors are allowed one 1-minute timeout per game, which leaves 59 minutes clock time allowed for each team.*

R. Post Round Robin Advantages

© Special Page Rules

The pool of available stones in the semi final and final will be determined by the Chief Umpire.

Change “semi final and final” to “all Page games”.

In an event such as our Trials Finals where there are only two Page games 1v2 and 3v4 on the ice at the same time, allowing more liberal rock selection is possible.

Explanation of the meaning of the various modes of the lights on sensor handles. This should be available somewhere, especially now that our sensor handles are old and fail and require maintenance on a regular basis. The players and the officials should have this information. At the

Trials Finals, light sequences occurred during a tie-break game that were not understood by the players or the officials.

6. Additions to the Officiating Manual

A flow chart for post round robin advantages to make it easier for umpires to determine the correct procedures.

Describe the procedure to follow if a sensor handle fails to activate:

1. A player observes a failure to activate and notifies an OIS.
2. The OIS instructs the player to deliver the stone, and tells the player that s/he will stand on the hog line to determine whether a hog line violation occurs. The OIS notes the identifying markings on the stone.
3. The OIS requests (via radio) the ice crew to repair or replace the sensor handle when the stone is out of play at the playing end.

This is the procedure that has been followed for the past few years, and provides a minimal interruption to the flow of the game during an end. The players are used to this procedure.

The umpires are advised to determine before the competition begins whether or not the team will confer with a coach or 5th player during a timeout. The officials need to know this in order to know whether or not to allow “travel time”

Put instructions for operating the USCA clocks on the back of the clocks !! These instructions should include how to set the time, a common activity when correcting for timing errors.

A torque wrench should be used when installing sensor handles, to minimize the occurrence of loose or damaged sensor handles.

Provide guidelines for allowing practice time for teams that have a day with no game. This is generally during post round robin play.

Evening practice sessions!! We should have consistent procedures/guidelines for how to sign up, when to sign up, how many sessions, how many sessions one team can sign up for, length of the sessions, can a team practice on more than one sheet, etc. Use WCF procedures going forward.

Post round robin choice of rocks – intact sets or just one color? From assigned sheet or mix and match? From entire field or just all rocks of one color? Current rules give the umpire complete discretion. We should provide guidance.

If there is no LSD (for a post round robin game), should pre-game practice time be shortened?

Who is allowed on the coaches bench? Must they be a coach, assistant coach, or 5th player? Must they be in matching uniform?

Joe Roberts of Seattle Granite has suggested that the Championship Rules and Procedures book include an index, and he offered to do it.

7. Draw issues

To save overall time in posting draws, I suggest the drawmaster be in direct communication with the site.

The meaning of the asterisks on the draw at the Ardsley women's qualifier was misunderstood. This resulted in an uneven distribution of practice time for some teams.

The draw at the Junior Nationals was sub-optimal. Some teams were done with the round-robin when other teams still had two games to play. The problems were a result of making last-minute changes without sufficient review. The following procedures are recommended to avoid this problem:

- Draws should not be revised without sufficient review.

- We have lost our best draw reviewer, Ed Lukowich, and are left with just one: Kent Beadle. We need more reviewers, since often the time for review is very short. To assist with the reviewing of draws, I have recruited Doug Kaufmann, Joe Roberts, and Joel Russ.

APPENDIX: Training & Instruction

To: Chris Sjue – VP Member Services

From: Jon Mielke, Chairman – Training & Instruction

RE: 2008-09 Activities

Date: April 14, 2009

As per your request, I have compiled an activities report for the Training & Instruction Committee. As the attached spreadsheet indicates, we conducted 13 Level I courses and 5 Level II courses during the past curling season. Total attendance at these courses was 204.

Prior to the start of this curling season, we sought the help of all state and regional presidents to identify an instructional coordinator/lead course conductor in each of the USCA's geographical regions. These individuals are now in place and are the points of contact between the USCA and member clubs that would like to host instructional clinics. These coordinators are also responsible for promoting instructional offerings to clubs in their area and for identifying competent instructors to conduct clinics.

With financial assistance from the USCA, these regional coordinators met in Bismarck last July for related training and to redefine the criteria required for attainment of Level I, II, and III certification. These new certification requirements were presented to and approved by the USCA board of directors last September.

The networking that took place at the July meeting also resulted in a significant amount of cross-training among instructors during the past season. For example, instructors from GNCC assisted with clinics in GLCA, Wisconsin instructors assisted with an Illinois clinic, and instructors from MoPac and Washington helped conduct clinics in Alaska. This is a very positive occurrence and I hope that the USCA will be able to facilitate this practice by sponsoring similar national course conductor meetings in the future, perhaps on an every-other-year rotating basis with other member services meetings.

Another positive occurrence during the past year was the USCA's hosting of a mini-member services meeting in Denver. This appears to be a very cost effective alternative to the traditional national meeting plus it gave us the opportunity to provide a greater number of local clubs direct access to both a Level I instructional clinic and the newly designed skills camp. Hopefully more such mini-conferences can be held in the future.

The curriculum for the skills camp that I just referred to was developed two years ago. Unlike the more intensive camps that were offered by the USCA several years ago, these camps are designed to be run in 4-5 hours and feature sessions on delivery, delivery analysis, strategy, sweeping, and timing. These camps have been very well received and provide a nice compliment for instructional clinics since both offerings can be run at a club on one weekend. During the upcoming year I hope to work with other committee members to reformat the skills camp curriculum into a multi-week program that individual clubs can use to help new curlers transition into better club curlers and hopefully even competitive curlers.

Chris, I appreciate the support and assistance that you have given our committee during the past year. I also want to express my deep appreciation for the support, dedication, and enthusiasm of all my committee members. Good curling!

APPENDIX: Instructional Camps & Clinics

2008-09 Instructional Activities

Level I Clinics

Date	Location	Attendance
May-08	Hollywood CC	8
Sept. 08	Evergreen CC – Portland	5
10/3/2008	Denver	20
10/4/2008	Nutmeg CC	8
10/10-12/08	Fairbanks CC	16
10/11/2008	Utica CC	6
10/11/2008	Potomac CC	11
10/25/2008	Columbus CC	26
10/26/2008	Chicago CC	17
11/1/2008	Cape Cod CC	12
11/20/2008	Itasca CC – Grand Rapids	6
11/22/2008	Mayfield CC – S. Euclid, OH	23
12/20/2002	Chesapeake CC	8
Total	13 Level I Clinics	166

Level II Clinics

Date	Location	Attendance
5/1/2008	Hollywood CC	2
10/10-12/08	Fairbanks CC	14
10/12/2008	Schenectady CC	9
12/6/2008	Bowling Green CC	6
12/14/2008	Nutmeg CC	8
Total	5 Level II Clinics	39

Skills Camps

Date	Location	Attendance
Sept. 08	Evergreen CC – Portland	4
Oct. 08	Evergreen CC – Portland	4
10/4/2008	Denver	20
12/6/2008	Bowling Green CC	13
Dec.-08	Coyotes CC – Phoenix	8
Jan-Feb. 09	Fairbanks CC	18
2/15/2009	Capital CC – Bismarck	13
Mar-09	Coyotes CC – Phoenix	8
Total	8 Skills Camps	88

APPENDIX:
USCA STONE COMMITTEE
APRIL 2009 REPORT

WCF STONES

- 33 sets of 2006 shipment retained by clubs.
- Payments have been received from clubs for 30 sets. Payments from USCA to WCF have been made for these 30 sets.
- 3 sets received extension with first payment due November 2009 (Green Mountain, VT; Willmar, MN).
- 7 sets returned. Sets were relocated to other clubs with new two year contracts in place. Stones were sent to Hollywood, Kalamazoo, Long Island and additional set to Green Mountain.
- Stones were returned from Brainerd, Copper Country and Massena.

TORONTO/BOULEVARD STONES

- Cache Valley (2 sets owned by WCF) December 2008 made third payment of five to WCF through USCA.
- Boise (2 sets owned by USCA) December 2008 made second payment of five for \$1,024 to USCA.
- Jug Mountain (1 set-USCA) stones transferred to Crested Butte, Colorado in off-season. Will enter into contract with Crested Butte.
- Pettit Center (1 set-USCA) No contract or agreement. Stones being used at Pettit Center.

PORTAL STONES

- Stones (1 set-USCA) were transferred from Nashville to Kalamazoo, Michigan. USCA has contract with Kalamazoo club.

OGDEN WCF STONES

- Ogden (5 sets-WCF) December 2008 made second of four payments to WCF through USCA.

USCA currently has \$2,048 in budget for purchase of stones with \$1,024 anticipated revenue in December 2009.

USCA Stone Committee, in partnership with Member Services, will compile a waiting list of clubs to receive loaner stones and to research a WCF shipment for 2010.

If any questions, please direct them to Jon Wilson at 760.703.9139 or e-mail at jonwilson48@msn.com

APPENDIX: A Report from the WCF Open Forum on Rules and Competitions

OPEN FORUM

DELTA BEAUSEJOUR HOTEL, MONCTON

09:00 AM ... Monday, 6 April 2009

WCF COMPETITIONS & RULES

The purpose of the Open Forum was to give Representatives of the Member Associations the opportunity to discuss competition and rules topics which are important in making future rules and the guidelines for WCF competitions. Motions could not be accepted, or voted upon, at this forum. This report gives an overview of what was discussed.

1. 2012 Youth Olympic Winter Games

- Les Harrison (WCF President) gave a complete explanation of the goals and objectives of the IOC and the WCF for this important new event. It is to be a “cultural and educational event for young people, driven by young people.”
- the dates, ages, playing and qualification systems, event personnel requirements, etc. were all carefully explained.

Generally Agreed: There are no objections from the majority of the Member Associations and they encourage the WCF to proceed as planned.

2. The WCF Competition Schedule

- at the end of the season there are too many overlapping competitions making it difficult for various officials and representatives to attend the necessary events.
- suggested by AUT: grouping more events together (same time and location).
- suggested by GER: holding the Mixed Doubles and/or WSCC in November.
- suggested by CAN: yes, October/November might work for some events.
- suggested by SUI: November might be too early for some events.

Generally Agreed: The WCF Rules and Competition Committee should continue to look for a possible solution to this “event congestion” problem.

3. Qualification Process for the Winter Olympic Games

- suggested by SWE: instead of 3 WCCs use all 4 WCCs for qualifying.
- suggested by SUI: could use the World Ranking as part of the process.

Generally Agreed: Mike Thomson should approach the IOC to see what their thoughts are on a 4 year qualification process before discussing further.

4. More PCF Teams at the World Championships (Men, Women & Juniors)

- suggested by KOR: when the Pacific Region is hosting a WCC or WJCC, the PCF should have 1 place for the Host and 2 additional places (instead of one).

- suggested by SWE: perhaps there could be a challenge for the 2nd additional spot (between the PCF team and one from Europe).
- suggested by Keith: that this discussion should only be for the Men and Women's Worlds, the junior system should not change at this time.

Generally Agreed: The WCF Rules and Competition Committee should study.

5. Rule Changes

a) Timing of games:

- suggested by CAN: changes in the timing system might have to be linked to whether the games are 8 or 10 ends.

Generally Agreed: After 2010 incorporate a timing system that uses only the thinking time, one that does not include the "running time" of the stone.

b) 8 ends V 10 ends

- suggested by CAN: lots of players and the fan-base prefer 10 ends.
- suggested by GER, AUT, SUI: prefer changing to 8 ends.
- suggested by SUI: if 8 ends, teams cannot shake hands after 4 ends.
- suggested by SCO: give "thinking time" a try before changing the number of ends.

Generally Agreed: This is an important issue that needs to be properly researched before taking any action. Perhaps a questionnaire should be sent to all Associations.

c) Eliminating Tie-breakers (for playoffs and relegation)

- without tie-breakers the weekend playing schedule could be set well in advance of the competition. Money and time could be saved if 3 sessions did not have to be reserved for tiebreakers.

- suggested by SWE/CAN: prefer using tiebreakers.

- suggested by OTHERS: okay to eliminate the tiebreakers.

Generally Agreed: The WCF Rules and Competition Committee should study and make further recommendations in this area.

d) One Hack (placed on the center line)

- since the majority of players now use the "no lift / no backswing" delivery, a single hack gives right and left handers the same start point, therefore is more fair.

Generally Agreed: The WCF Rules Committee should study and make further recommendations in this area.

e) Pre-game Practice

- to ensure good ice conditions (pebble not worn out) at the end of the game, instead of 10 minutes each team, just 1 or 2 stones each direction, for each player.

Generally Agreed: The WCF Rules Committee should study and make further recommendations in this area.

f) Developing World Championships for U18 and also 19-23 years

Generally Agreed: The WCF should not pursue this at this time.

g) Time-outs

Generally Agreed: After 2010, time-outs could be eliminated from some events. Consideration could be given to keeping them for junior events. The WCF Rules Committee should study and make further recommendations.

6. Code of Conduct

a) Alcohol Consumption Future WJCCs

-alcohol has created issues at past WJCCs, the Member Associations agreed that this is unacceptable.

- suggested by GER: if juniors caught drinking, they are removed from the event.

Generally Agreed & Passed at the AGA: The consumption of alcohol is prohibited at all future WJCCs and qualification events leading to the WJCCs. Details to be sorted out by the WCF Competition Committee.

b) Dress Code, Event Withdrawals, and Other Code of Conduct Violations

- suggested: Coaches and Team Leaders should take a stronger policing role.

- suggested by USA: the players should be fined directly.

- suggested by Keith: financial penalties should be levied against the Member's DAP.

- suggested by SCO: not from the DAP, but a direct fine against the Association.

Generally Agreed & Passed at the AGA: That fines would be charged against Member Associations for violations (i.e. – withdrawal from events would be a fine of US\$ 1000).

7. Awards

Generally Agreed: Now that the WCF is presenting gold rings to the winners of the Men's and Women's World Championships, the silver salvers can be eliminated. It was suggested that miniature curling stones could be given instead.

8. Other Topics

- There should be more discussion on the necessity of keeping all teams until the end of the competitions (allowed to go home after eliminated from the playoffs).

Keith Wendorf
WCF Director of Competition
May 2009

APPENDIX:

USCA/USWCA Liaison Report

Submitted by Janet Farr

April 19, 2009

This report is to bring the members of the USCA up-to-date on some of the activities of the United States Women's Curling Association.

With the Olympics less than a year away, clubs are beginning to think how they will handle the influx of new members that are sure to follow viewing curling on television.

As liaison, I try to attend both the USCA and USWCA meetings and I find it very interesting that on a local and national level, USWCA is dealing with much the same issues as the USCA has been dealing with. These include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting membership
- Reinstatement of former member clubs
- Fundraising
- Junior Development
- Putting the women's curling association into the marketplace
- Obtaining host sites for tournaments
- Budgetary issues
- Developing the sport of curling
- Officer replacement

At the request of the President of the Board, USWCA has provided for officer replacement in the event any officer cannot perform his or her duties or resigns. The provision allows the replacement until the officer can resume her duties or until the term ends, whichever comes first. The action requires a majority vote.

The USWCA unanimously passed a resolution in support of Chris Moore and his battle against cancer, citing Moore's fostering of both men's and women's curling at both the club level and nationally for many years.

The fall meeting of the USWCA is tentatively scheduled for September 19-20 in Stamford, Connecticut.